

10 DEC 1949

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GENERAL

1. US views on position of world communism-- The Department of State, in considering the implications of the recent Cominform Communiqué and an earlier speech by Malenkov, has expressed the view that the Kremlin's optimism regarding the present position of world communism is based largely upon Soviet progress in atomic developments and the success of the Chinese Communists. The Department points out, however, that the communiqué appears at most to be a Soviet decision to continue present strategy with special emphasis upon a "peace drive" as a means of rallying support and perhaps developing an ideological basis for possible future Communist action in western Europe. In support of the view that the Kremlin is still concerned with areas of continuing weakness in Europe, the Department points to: (1) the present inability of the Kremlin to overthrow Tito; (2) Soviet apprehension lest the Titoist heresy of national communism spread; and (3) the present political sterility of Communists in western Europe.

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

Auth: DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77  
Date: 15 MAR 1978

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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